

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SAM-01 PM-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-10 DODE-00 DRC-01 /094 W
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O P R 302030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 6660

INFO COMCARIBSEAFRON IMMEDIATE NIACT

CINCLANT FOR POLAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GJ PINS

SUBJ: PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS
FROM GRENADA

SUMMARY

IN VIEW POSSIBLE NEED FOR EVACUATION OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS FROM
GRENADA, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT US NAVAL VESSEL BE PLACED ON STAND-
BY ALERT TO ASSIST IN EVACUATION IF NEEDED. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY POL AND ADMIN OFFICERS MET THIS MORNING (JANUARY 30)
WITH COUNTERPARTS AT UK AND CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONS TO CO-
ORDINATE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF FOREIGN
RESIDENTS FROM GRENADA IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRI-PARTITE AGREE-
MENT IN THIS REGARD. (ANNEX N OF E & E PLAN, DECEMBER)973).
ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT (1) IT IS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY THAT
EVACUATION WILL BE REQUIRED, AND (2) NO ADDITIONAL ACTION NEED
BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME WITH REGARD TO PROTECTION OF FOREIGN
RESIDENTS. ALL AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION COULD DETERI-
ORATE RAPIDLY DURING NEXT TEN DAYS, JUSTIFYING CONTINUED CLOSE
MONITORING OF DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSULTATION ON ANY NEW ACTION
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DEEMED NECESSARY.

2. FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION WERE CONSIDERED:

(A) ESCALATED WARNING PHASE: TO DATE ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS HAVE ADVISED TOURISTS AND SHORT-TERM VISITORS TO LEAVE GRENADA ON VOLUNTARY BASIS AND ARE ADVISING INTENDED TOURISTS TO POSTPONE TRAVEL UNTIL SITUATION IMPROVES. THUS FAR NO SIMILAR ADVICE ISSUED TO PERMANENT OR PART-TIME RESIDENTS. IF SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD SEPARATELY BUT IN COORDINATION URGE RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER LEAVING ON VOLUNTARY BASIS. IF NORMAL INTER-ISLAND TRANSPORT INTERRUPTED (I.E. SCHEDULED AIRLINES FLIGHTS), WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT (CHARTER BOAT TGPLANE) FOR THOSE DESIRING TO LEAVE.

(B) HMG INTERVENTION: UK CURRENTLY CONSIDERING DIRECT INTERVENTION ONLY IN EVENT GAIRY IS ASSASSINATED AND WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE ENSUES. IN THIS EVENT HMG WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INTERVENE UPON REQUEST (OF GOVERNOR OR OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL) TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

(C) EVACUATION: IN EVENT THERE IS COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF ORDER WITH VIOLENCE DIRECTED AT FOREIGN RESIDENTS, THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD JOINTLY INITIATE EVACUATION PLANS. UK NOW HAS FRIGATE (HMS BACCHANTE) WITHIN TWO HOURS OF GRENADA ABLE TO EVACUATE 200 PERSONS. CANADA HAS SMALL DESTROYER ESCORT (ANNAPOLIS) ENROUTE FROM PUERTO RICO TO BARBADOS, NO MORE THAN 24 HOURS AWAY IF NEEDED, ABLE TO EVACUATE ADDITIONAL 200 PERSONS. (CANADIANS NOW SAY THEIR ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF 250 WAS TOO HIGH). TO AVOID REQUIRING EVACUEES TO MAKE LONG, DIFFICULT AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS OVERLAND JOURNEYS, THREE COLLECTION POINTS TENTATIVELY DESIGNATED: ST. GEORGE'S HARBOR, PRICKLY BAY IN THE SOUTHWEST AND PIRATE'S COVE NEAR LEVERA IN THE NORTH. THOUGH BACCHANTE AND ANNAPOLIS WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY BE ABLE TO EVACUATE ALL FOREIGN RESIDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRENADA (ESTIMATED AT 350), IT WAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE THIRD VESSEL ON CALL IF NEEDED, PARTICULARLY FOR EVACUATION OF ESTIMATED 60 TO 70 RESIDENTS IN REMOTE NORTHERN REGION OF ISLAND.

3. RECOMMENDATION: IN VIEW POSSIBLE NEED FOR THIRD VESSEL
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AND LIMITED AND UNCERTAIN AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL CHARTER CRAFT, EMBASSY REQUESTS U.S. NAVAL VESSEL BE PLACED ON STANDBY ALERT FOR POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN EVACUATION EFFORT. IF REQUIRED, VESSEL WOULD PROBABLY BE USED FOR EVACUATION NORTHERN RESIDENTS. SINCE THERE ARE NO NATURAL HARBORS IN NORTH AND BEACHES THERE SHALLOW, RECOMMEND THAT VESSEL HAVE SHALLOW DRAFT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, BE EQUIPPED WITH SMALL CRAFT ABLE TO FERRY BETWEEN SHIP AND SHORE. REQUEST ADVISE HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE

FOR SHIP TO REACH GRENADA IF NEEDED FOR EVACUATION.
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